

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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April 26, 2010

To IFWG Stakeholders:

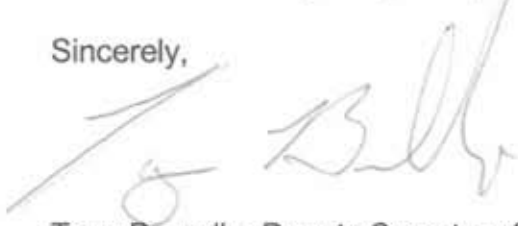
As co-chairs of the Interagency Forestry Working Group, we'd like to thank you for submitting your thoughts to the Interagency Forest Workgroup (IFWG) on the development of task group work plans. In November 2009, the Interagency Forest Workgroup (IFWG) posted work plans for task groups to address the capacity of the existing federal and private forest regulatory processes to meet the 5mmtCo2 sequestration target under the AB 32 Scoping Plan; and to provide guidance on the sustainability of biomass as feedstock source for liquid transportation fuels. In December 2009 IFWG received ten (10) sets of comments from the public. The comments submitted covered both technical and process issues. This is a response by IFWG to those comments.

IFWG members have used your comments to assist in development of the final work plans for the Task Groups. The work plans will explore those issues that are consistent with IFWG goals and objectives, using a series of tools including: 1) workshops or conferences, or information generated therein, 2) literature reviews, 3) research, pilot projects or case studies, 4) public field review opportunities, and 5) public discussion sessions with stakeholders, subject experts and IFWG staff. As the task groups move forward, IFWG will be able to develop more complete information to use in evaluation of topics such as GHG effects and trends of forest management and regulation, sustainable biomass harvesting, wildfire trends, effectiveness of fuel hazard reduction, and carbon balance questions related to the production of liquid transportation fuels.

IFWG recommendations will be provided to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection on actions to be considered in its own deliberations in defining the best means of providing assurance that the AB 32 Scoping Plan target for Forest Sector carbon sequestration will be met. ARB and the California Energy Commission (CEC) will have the benefit of the information developed in the task groups to use in their independent actions on questions surrounding the sustainable production of biomass for use in biofuels. IFWG believes that involving the stakeholder groups in further clarification of outstanding issues is more meaningful than providing written responses to comments based solely on the subset of information currently available.

The next public meeting to address questions on the ability of biomass feedstock to meet the potential future demands for liquid transportation fuels will be on April 29, 2010 at 10 a.m. in Hearing Room B of the California Energy Commission. We encourage you to attend this meeting and participate in deliberation on these important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Tony Brunello', written in a cursive style.

Tony Brunello, Deputy Secretary for Climate Change and Energy

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Gary Nakamura', written in a cursive style.

Gary Nakamura, Member, Board of Forestry and Fire Protection